

North Carolina National Guard

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VIRGINIA POLICE OFFICER SERVING IN N.C. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
SCHEDULED TO BE AWARDED SILVER STAR FOR VALOR SATURDAY**

RALEIGH – Virginia Police Officer and North Carolina National Guardsman Chief Warrant Officer James B. Herring is scheduled to be awarded the Silver Star during a ceremony at The Centre on the campus of Halifax Community College, Weldon, N.C., Saturday at 2 p.m.

The ceremony at 100 College Drive will honor Herring, an Operations Warrant Officer with B Co., 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, with the pinning of the Silver Star for his actions near Baqubah, Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom on Dec. 23, 2006.

Herring, a Chesterfield County, Virginia, Police Officer since January 1983, has a distinguished police career. As a police officer he has earned the Medal of Valor, the Police Star for Valor, two Police Combat Ribbons, and numerous commendations. He was also honored with the Police Combat Cross from the Petersburg Bureau of Police and the Silver Valor Award from the Richmond Retail Merchants Association.

He is currently serving on active duty with his North Carolina Army National Guard unit while on extended military leave from the Chesterfield County, Virginia, Police Department where he is a Police Lieutenant.

Herring's citation describes the action. "For gallantry in action on 23 December 2006 against enemy forces near Baqubah, Iraq, as the Detachment Commander, Operational Detachment-Alpha 2084. His heroism and bravery under intense enemy fire was responsible for the safety and well-being of a combined United States-Iraqi force. Chief Warrant Officer Three Herring's gallant action and total disregard for his personal well-being saved four men in his vehicle from serious injury or death. Chief Warrant Officer Three Herring's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Special Operations Task Force-North, The Special Operations Command Central, and the United States Army."

(cont)

The Silver Star Medal is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that required for award of the Distinguished Service Cross, must nevertheless have been performed with marked distinction.

Herring is the second North Carolina National Guard Soldier since WWII to earn the Silver Star, one of the nations highest awards for valor in the Army second only to the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. This formal ceremony honors Herring's historic service in the best tradition of the Minuteman.

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Note To Editors: Media are invited to attend. Soldiers will be available for interview.